



Aiding Japan

special edition

SRNS news

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS
AND SAVANNAH RIVER NATIONAL LABORATORY

SRNS sends equipment to assist crippled nuclear plant

On March 11, 2011, the tsunami wave that triggered a string of disasters in Japan also created a huge wave of relief efforts to assist the Japanese people. Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) is among those organizations reaching out to help the Japanese government.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has been working to determine which DOE resources are available to provide to recovery and cleanup tasks at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in Sendai, Japan.

SRNS, the management and operating contractor at the Savannah River Site (SRS), has been assisting DOE with engineering and planning proposals to deal with contaminated water. SRNS has also provided DOE with a list of capabilities and experts at SRS that could help the recovery efforts and is providing equipment that can be shipped to Japan as a part of this relief effort.

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An SRNS operator tests components within a port used to access the interior of a 1,000 gallon tank housed within a mobile lab known as a Radioactive Liquid Transport Assembly soon to be transported to Japan.

SRS tanks and trailers destined for Japan

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Previously, SRS' Shaw AREVA MOX Services and one of their subcontractors, Ashmore Concrete, shipped one of the world's largest concrete pumps to assist with nuclear containment efforts in Japan.

One of the two items destined for shipment to Japan from SRNS is a "Radioactive Liquid Transport Assembly" (LR-56) truck trailer. The LR-56 is a high-tech, self-contained, trailer housing a 1,000 gallon tank, pumps and a monitoring system. The LR-56 is a liquid storage and sampling system that can test and transport contaminated liquids. It also has a small companion trailer containing a diesel generator and fuel tank.

In addition, five large steel storage tanks have been prepared for use in Japan as well.

- Each tank is 36 feet long and nine feet in diameter and holds approximately 16,000 gallons of liquid.
- Four of the five tanks are made of stainless steel, while the fifth is constructed of carbon steel. Each was formerly used as cold (uncontaminated) chemical feed tank for the now decommissioned F Canyon chemical separations facility.
- The units are free from any form of radiological contamination and any residual chemicals have been thoroughly flushed from the tanks.

DOE is currently holding discussions with senior U.S. government officials to determine the best means of transporting this equipment from SRS to Japan.

DOE-SR and SRNS employees have worked at an expedited pace to prepare the equipment for shipment. Their efforts included:

- Preparing work packages and rigging equipment for safely loading the tanks onto trailers.



Five steel tanks (above), each capable of holding 16,000 gallons of liquid, are being prepared for shipment to Japan to potentially store contaminated fluid. The Radioactive Liquid Transport Assembly (below), used to sample and analyze contaminated liquids, will be provided as well.



- Relocating a 90-ton crane from another location site at SRS.
- Constructing wooden "cribbing" needed to cradle the tanks, preventing them from rolling off flat bed trailers.

SRS involvement in the Japan nuclear situation is part of a DOE-wide response, and that response is taking place in the context of a government to government diplomatic exchange.